

UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN
NICK LALOTA
NEW YORK'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Monday, March 27th, 2023

Dear {{prefix}} {{lastname}},

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Here you will be able to learn more about my work in Washington and at home serving Long Islanders.

VOTES

With my support, Congress passed critical legislation to support parents by ensuring they have a say in their child's education. Every parent has the right to know what their child is being taught and how they are being treated in school. This gives all of our students the best opportunity for success.

I also voted in favor of several bills to strengthen our relationships with our allied partners. As adversaries like China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea continue to flex their muscles and threaten democratic institutions around the world, it is vital that we not only reassure our current allies that we are committed to supporting them but that we work to establish new relationships and deter unaligned nations from falling into an adversarial sphere of influence.

Every week that I am D.C., I am committed to working to help all Long Islanders. Here is a recap of bills that passed with my support:

[H.R. 1093](#) would direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the advanced capabilities pillar of the trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Australia and the U.K. are two of our closest and most important allies on the global stage. With the continued rise of threats from our adversaries, we must make sure that our relationships with our allies stay strong.

[H.R. 1159](#) would amend the Taiwan Assurance Act to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State's Taiwan Guidelines. This bill would emphasize the

importance of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship given its strategically important position in the Pacific. As China continues to be more aggressive in its position towards Taiwan we must continue to reaffirm our commitment to standing with one of our most important allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

[H.R. 406, the Providing Appropriate Recognition and Treatment Needed to Enhance Relations \(PARTNER\) with ASEAN Act](#) would strengthen the partnership between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) by authorizing ASEAN to be designated as an international organization with diplomatic privileges and immunities consistent with the International Organization Immunities Act. Ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific, especially as we see economic and security threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party in the region and the Belt and Road Initiative, requires the United States to bolster relations with Southeast Asian countries. Without meaningful engagement, we leave the region little choice but to turn to the CCP. We need to make sure that ASEAN member nations know that the U.S. is a better and proven alternative partner to the CCP's ruthless and authoritarian regime.

[H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights Act](#) would put in place concrete legal protections that will ensure parents always have a seat at the table when it comes to their child's education. The legislation is built upon the ideals that parents have the right to know what their children are being taught, parents have a right to be heard, parents have the right to see their school's budget and spending, parents have a right to protect their child's privacy, and parents have the right to keep their children safe. As the father of three girls and the husband of a high school teacher, I believe that every parent should be able to have a say in their child's education. Schools should not be able to withhold or hide important information about students from their parents and legal guardians. I will always fight for our parents, our students, and our future.

For a full list of votes taken by the House of Representatives every week, click [HERE](#).



PLUM ISLAND NATIONAL MONUMENT ACT

For decades, Plum Island has been an important piece of Suffolk County. After years of uncertainty, Congress acted in 2020 to prevent the sale and ensure the preservation of Plum Island.

To further protect Plum Island, I recently introduced the Plum Island National Monument Act to establish Plum Island as a national monument for the purpose of ecological conservation, historical preservation, and the discovery and celebration of our shared cultural heritage.

The Department of Homeland Security originally was required by law to sell Plum Island to the highest bidder, however, former Congressman Lee Zeldin was successful in passing legislation to repeal that requirement. Now, my bill would permanently protect Plum Island by designating it as a national monument, thereby preventing the development and any damage to the unique environment.

To read the full text of my legislation, click [HERE](#).



RAILWAY SAFETY ACT

The train derailment last month in East Palestine, Ohio, is nothing short of a tragedy, an environmental disaster, and needs to have a bipartisan solution.

This past week, I joined Rep. Chris Deluzio (D-Pennsylvania) to introduce the bipartisan and bicameral [Railway Safety Act](#). Our bill would work to prevent future train derailment disasters like the one that occurred in East Palestine. The bill would take a number of key steps to improve rail safety protocols, such as enhancing safety procedures for trains carrying hazardous materials, establishing requirements for wayside defect detectors, creating a permanent requirement for railroads to operate with at least two-person crews, and increasing fines for wrongdoing committed by rail carriers.

Our legislation is the House companion to legislation introduced by Senators. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio). I am also proud to cosponsor the bipartisan [Reducing Accidents in Locomotives \(RAIL\) Act](#), introduced by Reps. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) and Emilia Sykes (D-Ohio).

We must assure Americans that their Congress is actively working to ensure that this doesn't happen anywhere else, whether it be Long Island or Los Angeles. Improving rail safety regulations to protect communities and rail workers will help prevent future disasters, like what happened in East Palestine, and ensure the safety of New Yorkers and anyone living close to railways. I look forward to working with my colleagues to deliver real results to keep Americans safe.

To read the full text of my Railway Safety Act, click [HERE](#).

TIKTOK BAN

As many of you saw this week, the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing entitled "TikTok: How Congress Can Safeguard American Data Privacy and Protect Children from

Online Harms”, featuring testimony from TikTok’s CEO Shou Chew. While I am not a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I was pleased to see bipartisan and unanimous condemnation from colleagues in regard to TikTok’s actions, lack of data privacy, and ownership by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

TikTok poses a direct threat to our national security, mental health, and privacy. There is irrefutable evidence that the CCP has a large influence and control over TikTok. Despite what the company claims, I am not convinced there can be a clean break between TikTok and its CCP-owned parent company, ByteDance. This should concern all Americans and Congress must act in Americans’ best interest and ban TikTok immediately.

PROBLEM SOLVERS CAUCUS

I came to Washington to deliver real results for the people of Suffolk County, not engage in mindless and hostile rhetoric. That is why I am proud to announce my membership in the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus. This caucus is a bipartisan group of Representatives that includes an equal number of Republicans and Democrats who seek to foster bipartisan cooperation on key policy issues.

Beginning in 2017, the Problem Solvers Caucus became an independent member-driven group in Congress, composed of representatives from across the country committed to finding common ground on many of the key issues facing the nation. The Caucus’ aim is to create a durable bloc that champions ideas that appeal to a broad spectrum of the American people. It is a group united in the idea that there are commonsense solutions to many of the country’s toughest challenges.

Joining the Problem Solvers Caucus will help me get to work for Long Islanders. The Problem Solvers have a proven track record of putting results over rhetoric, including the historic infrastructure bill and forcing changes to House rules to increase bipartisanship. I look forward to working with my colleagues to find common sense solutions to help all of my constituents.

LONG ISLAND SOUND CAUCUS

This week, I was named a Co-Chair of the bipartisan Long Island Sound Caucus alongside Rep. Joe Courtney (D-Connecticut). The Caucus will focus on issues relating to and impacting the Long Island Sound, including conservation, water, fishing, transportation, and energy.

I am proud to partner with my colleague from across the Sound, Congressman Courtney, to lead the bipartisan Long Island Sound Caucus. Much has been accomplished before me, and yet much

is left to be done. Protecting the Sound is not a partisan issue, it is an issue important to all Long Islanders.

The Sound is a vital part of Suffolk County's economy and unique culture. I was proud to have an amendment unanimously pass the House this year to protect Long Island's waters from offshore drilling. As co-chair of this caucus, I will continue that work to protect the Sound's water, fishing, and accessibility for generations to enjoy.

COMMITTEE WORK

I participated in a House Homeland Security Committee hearing on the importance of securing our maritime border. As the Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, I believe that our nation's maritime borders are facing a national security crisis similar to what we are seeing at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Over the last two years, the open border policies of the Biden Administration have led to our Law Enforcement Officials being overrun on a daily basis. They are facing unprecedented challenges and working around the clock to keep our communities safe as best they can. During our hearing, officials confirmed that the crisis they see at our maritime borders are nearing the levels of our southern border.

To watch my questioning, click [HERE](#).

MEETINGS

I appreciated the Army Liaison's office for visiting me in Washington and presenting me with the U.S. Army seal to display in my office. Ensuring that our nation's military is the greatest fighting force in the world is one of my top priorities on the House Armed Services Committee. As a member of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee with oversight of the U.S. Army, I'm looking forward to working with military leadership to guarantee they can successfully complete every mission.

But always remember, GO NAVY!



Suffolk County is home to an active community of both current and retired Law Enforcement Officers. This week I met with the Police Officers' Defense Coalition to hear their concerns and discuss what Congress can do to support Law Enforcement around the country. I have always and will always Back the Blue!



When I travel the district, I often hear from residents about the importance of protecting Suffolk County's unique environment. It was a pleasure meeting with the Peconic Estuary Partnership to discuss water quality and keeping Suffolk clean. In addition to their priorities, I brought up my new position as Co-Chair of the bipartisan Long Island Sound Caucus, my legislation to make Plum Island a national monument, and my amendment that unanimously passed the House to prevent offshore drilling in the water off Long Island.

Sincerely,

Rep. Nick LaLota
Member of Congress

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